

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11162

DEPT PASS DOT FOR ALLEN, TPI-42

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRN, TGEN, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT: RENEWAL DIS-
CUSSIONS (05.00)

REF: (A) STATE 118720, (B) MOSCOW 10815, (C) MOSCOW 10589

1. SUMMARY. US EXECUTIVE SECRETARY INFORMED SOVIETS ON MAY 17 OF US DECISION TO RENEW TRANSPORTATION BILATERAL FOR TWO YEARS, OUTLINED PROPOSED CHANGES TO AGREEMENT TEXT, AND ADVISED THAT DOT SECRETARY ADAMS HOPED TO COME TO THE USSR TO RENEW BILATERAL FORMALLY. FOR THEIR PART, SOVIETS OFFERED NO PROPOSALS, RESPONDED VAGUELY BUT GENERALLY POSITIVELY TO RAMUNDO'S PRESENTATION AND DID NOT RAISE THE MARINE TRANSPORT ISSUE. SOVIETS ADVISED THEY WILL RESPOND FORMALLY TO US PROPOSALS ON MAY 23. END SUMMARY.

2. US TRANSPORTATION BILATERAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY RAMUNDO MET MAY 17 WITH AYKAZYAN, SCST, TO DISCUSS RENEWAL OF SUBJECT AGREEMENT. SHINKAREV AND ISHCHENKO, SCST, ALSO PARTICIPATED. RAMUNDO INFORMED SOVIETS OF US DECISION TO
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RENEW FOR TWO YEARS AND THEN REVIEWED, ARTICLE BY ARTICLE, US DRAFT OF PROPOSED NEW AGREEMENT TEXT. AYKAZYAN RESPONDED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD STUDY US PROPOSALS AND WOULD REPLY OFFICIALLY AT MAY 23 MEETING WITH RAMUNDO.

3. AYKAZYAN DID, HOWEVER, COMMENT BRIEFLY AND "UNOFFICIAL-

LY" ON SEVERAL OF THE US PROPOSALS, NOTING THAT

-- THE ADDITIONS TO THE PREAMBLE PROPOSED BY THE US
(PARA 4A, REF A) SEEMED "LOGICAL;"

-- THE US RATIONALE FOR DELETING FROM ARTICLE 2 SPECIFIC
REFERENCES TO AREAS OF COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY MADE SENSE;

-- THE INCLUSION IN ARTICLE 4 OF REFERENCE TO FACILITATION
OF AGREEMENT PARTICIPATION ACROSS NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL
LINES PROBABLY WOULD CAUSE NO PROBLEMS FOR THE SOVIETS;
AND

-- HE PERSONALLY WELCOMED THE INSTITUTION OF A MID-YEAR
REVIEW.

ONLY SHINKAREV COMMENTED ON PROPOSAL TO EXTEND BILATERAL
FOR TWO YEARS, OBSERVING THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND
REASON FOR THIS SUBMISSION IN VIEW OF "EXCELLENT" RECORD
OF COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED UNDER THIS BILATERAL
DURING ITS FIRST FIVE YEARS OF LIFE.

4. SOVIETS NEITHER REITERATED THEIR PREVIOUSLY OFT-
EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR CONTINUATION OF MARINE TRANSPORT
JWG NOR OBJECTED TO ELIMINATION OF SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO
THIS ACTIVITY FROM ARTICLE 2.

5. SOVIETS RESPONDED WITH INTEREST TO INFORMATION CONCERN-
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ING SECRETARY ADAMS'S DESIRE TO VISIT THE USSR IN LATE
AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER TO SIGN THE RENEWED BILATERAL.
AYKAZYAN WELCOMED POSSIBILITY OF ADAMS'S VISIT BUT INDICATED
INFORMALLY THAT LATE SEPTEMBER-EARLY
OCTOBER WOULD BE BETTER FROM SOVIET STAND-POINT FOR VISIT
BECAUSE MANY SOVIET OFFICIALS VACATION IN AUGUST.
AYKAZYAN ADVISED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD PROVIDE A DEFINITE
RESPONSE SHORTLY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS WILL HAVE
TO FIND AN OFFICIAL OF EQUIVALENT STATURE TO SIGN
OPPOSITE SECRETARY ADAMS.

6. COMMENT. SOVIET RESPONSE IN GENERAL WAS SUBDUED THOUGH
POSITIVE. IN TRYING TO ANTICIPATE FORMAL SOVIET REPLY,
WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THEY WILL HAVE LITTLE DIFFICULTY
ACCEPTING PROPOSED CHANGES TO PREAMBLE AND TO INSTITUTION
OF MID-YEAR REVIEW. THOUGH THEY MADE NOT A MURMUR
ABOUT MARINE TRANSPORT COOPERATION IT IS UNLIKELY THAT
THEY WILL PERMIT THIS JWG
- IN WHICH THEY HAVE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST

- TO DIE EASILY. ALSO, WE DO NOT EXPECT THEM EASILY TO
ACCEPT INCLUSION IN ARTICLE 4 OF REFERENCE TO FACILITA-

TION OF AGREEMENT PARTICIPATION ACROSS NATIONAL ORGANIZA-
TIONAL LINES AND SOVIETS WILL PROBABLY RESIST THE ADDITION
TO THAT ARTICLE OF LANGUAGE SPECIFYING MUTUAL OBLIGATION T
PROVIDE EQUAL ACCESS, A PROPOSAL (REF B) TO WHICH SOVIETS
HAD NO COMMENT. FINALLY, WE ANTICIPATE SOVIETS WILL PRESS
FOR RENEWAL FOR FIVE VICE TWO YEARS BUT WILL SETTLE FOR
THE LATTER TERM WHEN THEY ARE CONVINCED IT IS THE ONLY
WAY TO OBTAIN RENEWAL. MATLOCK

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